

It is, we believe, the case (says the *Singapore Free Press*) that a certain Official Member of Council, immediately after having had to vote the Secretary-of-State's 'No' against Mr. Shillford's amendment to reduce the amount of the Military Contribution, liberated his soul and conscience from the compulsion of official duty by muttering, not audibly, 'D—n that "No"!'.

The *North Borneo Herald* says that Mr. W. G. Durbly recently sent three labels of Yabodatu gold to Hongkong for assay, equivalent to four ounces, English weight. The assay states the samples to contain 97 per cent. of gold valued at 21.22 taels per tael equal to £3.18.9 to £4.4 English money per ounce. This is a high value. Bolo River gold assayed in Melbourne in 1932 at the Melbourne Mint £4.1.4 per ounce.

Mr. Charles Edward Miller, whose name has recently been prominently before the public in connection with embassies alleged to have been committed by him at Hio, Japan, his arrest at Singapore on board the French mail steamer *Delphine*; his appearance at the Police Court; and his final release on a writ of Habeas Corpus granted by the Honourable the Chief Justice, is reported to have been re-arrested at Sourabaya on his arrival from Singapore.

Says the *Singapore Free Press* of the 16th inst.:—Last evening in the Boustead Institute, Mrs. Hasbottle, the wife of the Navigating Lieutenant of the *Mercury*, a lady who is exceedingly popular with the crew, was made the recipient of a handsome travelling clock presented by the men of the lower deck of H. M. S. *Mercury*. The presentation was made by the leading seaman, Mr. Hixley, who read the address. Three cheers were afterwards called for and most enthusiastically responded to.

The *Singapore Free Press* says:—A curious cure for ague fever was recommended and who tried it successfully. It is a dish of flying-fox, taken with a dose of brandy. There is already said to be a strange and rapid increase in the number of ague cases in Penang, and the patients invariably pronounce the remedy an excellent one, especially when the flying-fox ingredient is omitted, which we understand it is a rule.

One would be heartily glad (says the *Financial News*) if the evidence of the *Financial News* for money could be said to indicate a greater degree of business activity. Money has been so cheap during the last few months, and the stagnation in the City has been so profound, that there is a natural temptation to hope that a rise in discount rates indicates a revival of trade. There are, unfortunately, no sufficient grounds for believing this hope to be well founded. Trade, instead of improving, seems to be getting worse, and is not likely to receive any immediate impetus from the threatened great strike in Lancashire. The Board of Trade returns furnish no encouragement as regards a speedy recovery in our export trade, and the reports of representatives of various leading industries are, with a couple of exceptions of a nature which inspire glimmering hopes, not encouraging. It is only too clear that the rise in money rates has little or no connection with an improvement in business. The arrivals at the Bank of England this year total up to £7,470,000 and the withdrawals to £5,470,000, the favourable balance of £2,000,000. The present month, however, shows a sharp difference the other way, arrivals amounting to only £193,000, while the withdrawals are £1,767,000.

Taxation of tobacco on the nervous system, says a writer in the *Popular Science Monthly*, is weak and wholly special. It is not a tax to sleep, but a tax to wake, and it is a tax on the organs. It causes an agreeable torpor, during which thought continues loud and the capacity for work is not diminished. Such is the attraction it exercises and which causes it to be used by so many thinkers and statesmen. It is a tax to them, a help in mental labour. When fatigue begins and the need of a moment's rest is felt; when the thought fails to proceed itself with the usual exactness, and the mind hesitates over the steps to give to it, the stimulus of tobacco is applied, and the mind is again set to work. In taking up this part of the programme, and afflicting itself with teachers of all grades, the society against the use of tobacco has performed real service; but it has tried to gain its end by exaggerations that only compromise it.

This following specimen of a schoolboy's letter appears in the *Financial News*, and opinion is expressed that if money still continues to escape consumption, he will grow up smart.

My dear Sir,
I write to tell you I am very retarded and my children are very retarded. I have made any progress and do not think I shall. I am very sorry to be so retarded and do not think this school is any good. One of the fellows has taken the crown of my new hat for a target he has borrowed my watch to make a watch with the work but it won't set me and him have tried to put the watch back but we think some wheels are missing as they won't fit.

I hope Matilda's clock is better I am glad she is not so retarded. I think I have got consumption, the boys say the place are not getting any better of course you did not know that when you sent me here. I will try not to get bad habits, the trousers have worn out at knees I think the tailor must have done you the buttons have come off and they are low at the back I don't think the food is good but should not mind if it was stronger the peace of mind I send you is off the beef we had on Sunday but on other days it is more stringy there are black beetles in the dinner which cannot be wholesome when you are not strong. Dear Ma I hope you and pa are well and don't mind my being so uncomfortable because I don't think I shall last long please send me some more money I owe 5 pence if you cannot give it I can borrow it from a boy who is going to leave at half quarter and then he won't ask for it again but perhaps you won't like to be under an obligation to his parents as they are tradespeople and I think you don't like to trade. I did not mind it or I dare say they would have put it down in the bill.

Your loving but retarded son,
Tommy.

THE SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held this afternoon. There were present: Hon. J. H. Stewart, President; Hon. F. A. Cooper, Vice-President; Dr. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon; Mr. N. J. Ede, Mr. Lou Wai Chan, and Mr. H. McCallum, Secretary.

CHANGES ON THE WORKING STAFF.
A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary sanctioning the appointment of William Fisher as Assistant Inspector of Markets, in succession to John Ede, in hospital.

The President—Now that Mr. Fisher has been appointed Assistant Inspector we will have to arrange for filling up the place vacated by him. Is there anyone for promotion?

Mr. McCallum—I have got a man temporarily doing the work—a very good man.

Mr. Ede—Who is he?

Mr. McCallum—Mr. Moffat.

MORTALITY RETURNS.

Mr. McCallum intimated that the death rate for the week ended 13th November was 16.4 per 1000 per annum of the estimated population as compared with 20.2 in the corresponding week last year. For the week ended 19th November the rate was 17.3 as compared with 24.0 in the corresponding week last year.

PUBLIC LAUNDRIES.

The Secretary (Mr. H. McCallum) wrote—It has occurred to me that the most expeditious way of laying before members the position of the question under consideration is to repeat the reports already made, and add to these such remarks as appear to me to have a direct bearing on what may be termed the 'Public Laundries Question.'

Here follow the documents that have been already published, with the following addition:—

It will be observed that in the report of 31st October, 1932, the remedial measures recommended were—(1) The prohibition of the use of public streams by public laundries for their trade purposes, and (2) the framing of bye-laws under sub-section 23 of Section 13 of the Health Ordinance and their gradual but firm enforcement. The reason why the first recommendation was not carried out in 1932 was because the washermen had no other place in which to continue their business. It was, therefore, deemed expedient to allow the pollution of the streams and the nuisance caused thereby to continue for some time longer, inasmuch as the nuisance had existed since the establishment of the Colony, and has naturally expanded as the Colony has increased. This reason has not now the same force it had then, because there are places where some of these washermen can carry on their business in a proper manner, and when the nature and extent of the accommodation is considered, at low rentals. It is but right that the public streams should not continue to be used for trade purposes any longer than can be helped, more especially when such use so fouls the streams as to cause them to be, at times, pronounced public nuisances and a source of danger to public health.

In view of these circumstances it would seem as if there need be no hesitation at once giving all the washermen notice to cease trespassing on Crown land and creating a nuisance by fouling public streams, but inasmuch as there is by no means a sufficient number of wash-houses to accommodate all the washermen now using the public streams as a part of their business premises, the questions for consideration are—

1. What is the fair and most expeditious manner of limiting the number of washermen who will for some time longer be permitted to continue to use public property for their trade purposes, and
2. At what date should such use of public property cease altogether.

The first question requires very little consideration because it is obvious that the washermen having tanks in the immediate vicinity of the Mint should be first removed, and mainly for the reason that should the present dry weather continue they are almost certain to help themselves to the water they require from the Mint itself, and they are by no means likely to be particular in using clean vessels and vessels of clean water. It is, therefore, seems clear that the first step should be to prohibit the washing of clothing in Mint Dam Valley at any point higher than one hundred yards below the Mint Dam.

The second point requires careful consideration, and is complicated by the obstinate perversity of the washermen themselves. It has to be remembered—

1. That 18 of them petitioned to be allowed to rent the laundries when completed.
2. That only 6 of them entered the laundries and that 3 of the six very soon left.
3. That nearly all of them have recently petitioned not to be made to rent the laundries.

Under these circumstances it would be unwise to erect additional laundries at the public expense until such time as the washermen ask that this assistance be rendered to them, and even then, after what has occurred, they should be asked to give security that they will enter into occupation of them, on completion, at a fixed rental for a term of years.

Failing this, let them provide their own business premises, each promise to be fitted and kept in accordance with the bye-laws which are to be made. I attach hereto a draft of such bye-laws as appear to me to be necessary. They can, subsequently, be amplified in such manner as experience of their working may show to be desirable.

A careful consideration of the whole question has led me to the conclusion that the date to fix on and after which the use of public streams for the business purposes of persons following the calling of public washermen should cease should be the 1st of January, 1934. This will give these washermen ample time to make other arrangements for carrying on their business, and should they, on reconsidering their position, ask that the original scheme of erecting three sets of public laundries be proceeded with and it is deemed wise to do so, it will be possible, I imagine, to have the remaining two sets ready for occupation by that date.

The President—I think we had better

have a further meeting of the Board before discussing this matter.
Agreed.
The Board then sat in private and considered the applications for the evening concert. The contract was given to Kwong Kan Tong, who quoted a lower price than last year's contract.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EDUCATION REPORT.

To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL.'

Hongkong, Nov. 24.

SIR,—In your paper of the 17th inst. you publish extracts from the report of the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Ede.

After telling how that at his suggestion the exact number of children of school-going age was found out, he tells us that the result is a saddening revelation; he then refers to figures, butters up the Registrar General and district watchmen, and winds up by telling us that the case of the boys is not so bad as in Ireland. Why the Registrar General and district watchmen should be referred to in connection with the boys is not so clear as in Ireland. Why the Registrar General and district watchmen should be referred to in connection with the boys is not so clear as in Ireland.

Let us all hope that under the influence of the law just come into force, the boys of Hongkong will be as well educated as the boys of the Sister Kingdoms.—Faintly yours,

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The first question requires very little consideration because it is obvious that the washermen having tanks in the immediate vicinity of the Mint should be first removed, and mainly for the reason that should the present dry weather continue they are almost certain to help themselves to the water they require from the Mint itself, and they are by no means likely to be particular in using clean vessels and vessels of clean water.

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2. That only 6 of them entered the laundries and that 3 of the six very soon left.
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Under these circumstances it would be unwise to erect additional laundries at the public expense until such time as the washermen ask that this assistance be rendered to them, and even then, after what has occurred, they should be asked to give security that they will enter into occupation of them, on completion, at a fixed rental for a term of years.

Failing this, let them provide their own business premises, each promise to be fitted and kept in accordance with the bye-laws which are to be made. I attach hereto a draft of such bye-laws as appear to me to be necessary. They can, subsequently, be amplified in such manner as experience of their working may show to be desirable.

A careful consideration of the whole question has led me to the conclusion that the date to fix on and after which the use of public streams for the business purposes of persons following the calling of public washermen should cease should be the 1st of January, 1934. This will give these washermen ample time to make other arrangements for carrying on their business, and should they, on reconsidering their position, ask that the original scheme of erecting three sets of public laundries be proceeded with and it is deemed wise to do so, it will be possible, I imagine, to have the remaining two sets ready for occupation by that date.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

Few writers in the home magazines at the present time show a greater versatility than Sir Herbert Maxwell, who discourses as follows in *Blackwood's Magazine* on sports and pastimes.—All men feel the necessity of beginning the hour, the veriest dolt will soon fall off of his senses if he does nothing but count the ticks of the clock; so man has invented for his solace an infinite variety of deliberate pastimes—artificial work of hand or brain—which fill his perception of the alpine and as effectively as productive labour does that of the artisan. The energy which has been used to show that there are means of degrading and enervating the world—society—made up as a mass—is nowhere more manifest than in the elaborate and costly preparations for amusement—for sheer pastime—which men as soon as they get leisure turn to with the eagerness of a dog for a bone.

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Mails.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.'S
ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE,
CHINA AND JAPAN.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG, 1892.

(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.)

Empress of India Wednesday Nov. 30/92

Empress of Japan Wednesday Dec. 23/92

Empress of China Wednesday Jan. 25/93

THE R. M. S. EMPRESS OF INDIA,
Lieut. O. P. MARSHALL, R.N.R., Com-
mander, sailing at Noon, on WEDNESDAY,
the 30th November, with Her Majesty's
Mails, will proceed to VANCOUVER, via
SHANGHAI, KOBE, INLAND SEA and
YOKOHAMA.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

(In Mexican Dollars.)

From Hongkong, First Class.

TO

Prepaid Return

4 12

Mos

Vanouwer, Victoria, Es-

quima, N.W., West-

minster, B.C., 226

338 394

Port Townsend, Seattle,

Tacoma, Wash., 256

338 487

Portland, Ore., San Fran-

cisco, 276 413 482

San Francisco, N.Y.,

Winnipeg, Man., 286

428 490

Minneapolis, St. Paul, Du-

luth Minn., 296

445 517

Chicago, Ill., Kansas City,

St. Louis, Mo., 306

458 534

St. Paul, Minn., 316

468 544

Buffalo, N.Y., 326

478 554

Kingston, Ottawa, Ont.,

336 488 564

Montreal, Quebec, Que-

bec, N.Y., Albany, Troy,

Rochester, N.Y., 346

498 574

Baltimore, Md., Philadel-

phia, Pittsburg, Pa., 356

508 584

Washington, D.C., Boston,

Mass., Portland, Me., 366

518 594

Halifax, N.S., St. John,

N.B., 376 528 604

Liverpool, and London, 386

538 614

Paris via Liverpool and

London, 396 548 624

Havre, via Liverpool and

London, 406 558 634

Bremen, 416 568 644

Hamburg, 426 578 654

2nd class steamer and 1st class on rail,

and 2nd class steamer and rail, also Steer-

age Rates and Rates to other places, quoted

on application.

The Steamers call at Victoria to land and

embark Passengers.

Return Tickets.—Time limit for prepaid

return ticket is reckoned from date of issue

to date of re-embarking at San Francisco.

Through Passage Tickets granted to Eng-

land, France, and Germany by all trans-

Atlantic lines of steamers.

Special rates (first class only) are granted

to Missionaries, members of the Navy,

Military, Diplomatic, and Civil Services,

European officials in service of China or

Japan, and to Government officials.

Passengers by this Line have the option

of proceeding Overland by the Southern

Pacific and connecting Lines, Central Pa-

cific, Northern Pacific or Canadian Pacific

railways.

Return Tickets.—First Class.—Prepaid

return tickets to San Francisco will be

issued at following rates:—

4 months, \$347.50

12 months, \$554.75

Time is reckoned from date of issue to

date of re-embarking at San Francisco.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-

Mails.

U. S. MAIL LINE.
PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP
COMPANY.

THROUGH TO NEW YORK, VIA
OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND THROUGH
TO YOKOHAMA AND SAN
FRANCISCO.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

City of Rio de Janeiro, SATURDAY, Dec. 10.

City of Peking, SATURDAY, Dec. 31.

China, TUESDAY, Jan. 19/93

THE U. S. Mail Steamship CITY OF

RIO DE JANEIRO will be de-

parted for SAN FRANCISCO, via

YOKOHAMA and HONOLULU, on

SATURDAY, 10th December, at 1 p.m.,

sailing thence for San Francisco, Japan,

the United States, and Europe.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

From Hongkong, First Class.

TO

Prepaid Return

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Intimations.

D. R. KNOX'S ANTI-PYRENE "LION

BRAND." (Dose for adults 15 to 35

grains daily) is the most approved and

most ECTOGENOUS REMEDY in cases of

HEADACHE, MIGRAINE, NEURALGIA, RHEU-

MATISM, FEVER, TYPHUS, ERYSIPELAS,

HOPKINS GORDON, INFLUENZA, DENGUE,

and many other COMPLAINTS. It is also

the very best ANTI-PYRENE. Highly recom-

mended by the Medical Faculty.

Ask for Dr. Knox's Anti-pyrene Lion

Brand. Each tin bears the inventor's

signature, "Dr. Knox" in red letters.

DERMATOL is the best vulnerary; its

effect in stimulating the closing of wounds

is described as amazing.

To be had of every reputable Chemist and

Druggist.

Supplies constantly on hand at CHINA

EXPORT, IMPORT & BANK COMPANIES,

Hongkong & Shanghai, Sole Agents for

China.

Beware of spurious imitations!!! 1060

WINDSOR HOTEL.

(In Unmanned Buildings),

QUEEN'S ROAD, HONGKONG.

THE Windsor Hotel heretofore carried on

in WINDSOR HOUSE has now been

removed to QUEEN'S ROAD HOUSE.

Cuisine under European management.

Each Bed-room has its own Bath-room.

Chairs, Gold and Silver, and Passenger Elevator

to all floors.

Charges from \$2 per day upwards.

Special Rates for Families or Permanent

Boarders. Offices and Rooms to let un-

furnished, and with or without

furniture, by day or month. Apply at the

Office, No. 37, 3rd Floor.

Hongkong, August 23, 1892. 1594

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